

## SOME COMMON RATING QUESTIONS

- Q. Susan played 20 matches this year and won 18 of them. Why didn't she get moved up? I don't want her to play in our league – she's too good and it's not fun to play her.
- A. *If Susan is a high level player, such as a 3.97 (4.0 rating), then there is a high probability that everyone she plays in the league will have a lower dynamic rating than she does. Therefore, she is expected to beat them. That does not mean she is a 4.5 player. If she beats them by the predicted margin, then her rating will change very little. She may have an occasional great win against a player with a similar dynamic rating, but often that is offset by losing to someone she shouldn't have lost to. In order to get moved up, she would need to play some players with equally high dynamics, and beat them soundly.*
- Q. How many matches do I have to win to get moved up?
- A. *It's not the number of wins that determine a player's rating, but rather the quality of the opponent, and then the result.*
- Q. I lost every match I played this year, and still didn't get moved down. I hate the rating system – it doesn't work! It's not about winning, I simply want to play at the lower level with my buddies.
- A. *Let's assume you have a low dynamic rating, such as a 3.04 (low 3.5 player). Chances are everyone you play has a higher dynamic rating than you. You are therefore expected to lose. That does not mean you are a 3.0 player. Your rating will only drop down to 3.0 if you play against equal ability players (other low 3.5's) and lose badly. This is a common complaint we hear from players who are moved up at the end of the year to the higher level. They are usually on the bottom of the rung at that level.*
- Q. I played every match this year with Jean, but Jean got moved up and I didn't. This is really embarrassing. Actually, I'm better than she is – I can't tell you how many times I've had to carry her in a match, but your stupid computer doesn't see that. She can't even hit an overhead!
- A. *Well, actually, 95% of the time we check the records, they didn't play every match together, but that's another issue. Assuming they did play every match together, then their dynamic ratings would in fact have gone up or down in tandem. However, if Jean started the year with a 3.45 and you started the year with a 3.33, then the increase in Jean's rating was enough to move her to the next level. Even though the increase in your rating was the same as Jean's, you are still at the 3.5 level.*

Q. I have been playing at both the 3.0 and 3.5 levels because I want to get moved up to 3.5. I won all my 3.0 matches, and even won some matches at the 3.5 level and still didn't get moved up! Why?

A. *We get asked this a lot. I explained earlier how you can win all your matches and not get moved up. In this case, probably the player has a top of level 3.0 rating, and is beating players with lower dynamic ratings by the predicted margin, which further confirms that her dynamic is accurate. As far as winning matches at the 3.5 level – the 3.0 and 3.5 Adult leagues are usually being played at the same time. Therefore, if you win a 3.5 match and your dynamic rating goes into the 3.5 range, most probably your next match would be against a 3.0. Now you have a much higher dynamic rating going into that 3.0 match, which means you must beat the 3.0 player by a much higher margin in order to maintain that higher dynamic. If you beat the 3.0 player by an amount a high level 3.0 player would, then your dynamic is back to the high 3.0 level, which is what you are.*

Q. I've been assigned a benchmark rating for the past 3 years. I really want to move up to the next level, but I can't appeal up because of the benchmark rating. What can I do?

A. *The obvious answer is to play up and not play at your level. That will give you a better chance of getting moved up. I could also say you are most probably at the correct level, because benchmark ratings are more accurate. I could also ask why you would want to get moved up? You are obviously winning a lot of matches because your teams keep going to championships. Why would you want to play at a higher level and lose?*

**While the “B” rating no longer shows, benchmarking does still occur.**

*And just a reminder, the published tennis league stats you may have seen, are NOT FROM THE USTA. The only way you can see your rating level is by going into TennisLink. The USTA will NEVER publish your dynamic rating, so any time you see a dynamic rating, you know it's a fake.*